

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

JANUARY 24, 2012

Element Power, LLC, is requesting a Conditional Use Permit to construct five meteorological towers, each 197' 8" in height, near 170th Street West and Lancaster Road in unincorporated Antelope Valley. Tall, thin structures, such as meteorological towers, pose a collision risk to avian species. A wide variety of bird species have been documented to collide with the associated guy wires. It is generally believed that birds collide with these lines because the lines are invisible to the birds or because the lines are not seen until it is too late for birds to avoid it. Large, less maneuverable birds are especially vulnerable to collisions with guy wires that are relatively thin and difficult to see from a distance. Poor weather conditions, such as fog, rain or snow, as well as darkness, make the lines even more difficult to see.

The proliferation of meteorological towers poses a significant safety hazard to many types of aeronautical operations. The towers are very difficult to see and in some conditions are virtually invisible. The operations that are at risk of striking a tower include general aviation flights for personal transportation, flight training, agriculture application, numerous Federal, State and local law enforcement, emergency services, wildlife management, and many others.

Antelope Valley residents also want to maintain the rural character found in their towns and surrounding environment. This rural character is what makes the Antelope Valley unique and valuable. Meteorological towers create an industrialized and commercial atmosphere that's inconsistent with the rural preservation strategies that Antelope Valley residents seek.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Indicate its intent to approve the appeal of the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission's ("Commission") approval, deny the conditional use permit, and instruct County Counsel to prepare the necessary findings to deny the Commission's approval of Conditional Use Permit No. 201100018.

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MDA:evo
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RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

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